

Volume 4 Issue 1 May/June 1994

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ILLUSIONS

ISSUES OF THE TV/TS LIFESTYLE

REFERENCE USE ONLY

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TRANSSEXUALITY

CURE OR CONFUSION?

DRAG QUEENS

JOIN THE ILLUSIONS GIRLS
AT THE GALA OF GLAMOUR-
THE EVENT OF CROSSDRESSING

THE WEAKER SEX

MALE OR FEMALE?

CLUB PERSONALS

ADS FROM AND FOR TV/TS'S

MEET TERI-CENTERFOLD



ILLUSIONS CALENDAR

Calgary

May 14 Mystery Party Nite
May 26 Swap Meet
June 11 4th Birthday Party!
June 30 "TV" Talk Show
July 16 Stampede B.B.Q.
July 28 Summers Here Party
August Check With Social Committee

Edmonton

May 12 Regular Meeting
June 9 Regular Meeting
July 14 Regular Meeting
August "Coronation"

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Calgary

May 22 I.S.C.C.A. "Investiture '94"
at BBX 1207 - 1 St., S.W.
June 5 "Black Wedding" by invitation.
June 27- "Still Lives" & "Misfits" 2 one act
July 2 plays @ Pumphouse Theatre
July 1-3 I.G.R.A. Rodeo an A.G.R.A. Event
Simon's Valley Ranch
July 4 Speak Sebastian '94 Awards
Martha Cohen Theatre
July 16 Mr. Western Canada Drummer
at Detours Club

Edmonton

June 18 Mr. Alberta Drummer
at Phoenix Theatre
August 20 I.S.C.W.R. Coronation '94
See Marsha for tickets

AND NOW.....

A WORD FROM OUR EDITORS!!!....



BELLS, BELLS, BELLS!

My ears are still ringing from the "Ball", pretty good fun. Congratulations to David and Erin the Courts Royalty for this coming year.

I know it says Bells in the lead in so "Gals" dust off your party frocks and be at "The 4th Illusions Birthday Party" with Bells on.

Speaking of Birthdays, we are entering our second year of publishing this magazine. We have seen some changes and hope to continue upgrading the quality and content of our publication.

Back to the Bells again, Wedding Bells are ringing for David and Erin. Investiture '94, the Court Wedding of the new Royalty will be held at BBX in May. Everyone wants to be a "Spring Bride". We wish we could be there to help with the celebrations.

Talking about "Spring Brides", Barbie & Christine are tying the knot in late May with family and then re-affirming their vows with their friends at "Black Wedding" in early June. Could be quite the wedding, certainly nothing like anything this town has ever seen!

Check out the calendar of events.....certainly something for almost everyone. Get out and celebrate Life and enjoy your unique part in the play. Make your contribution to the World as you are the only one who can!

In Veils and Vacuum Cleaners,
Barbie & Christine

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privacy considerations.

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...and more Illusions

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There's more than just makeup.

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Volume 4, Issue 1
May/June 1994

Teri Teri

Attention all you Lois Lane types!

Illusions always needs your submissions to the magazine. What's on your mind? We also need any shutterbug gals to help take photos at Illusions functions.

Letters.....26

Girls from all over write to us.

Welcome Mat.....31

More friends join this great club.

The Personals.....34

The lovely ladies who make the Illusion.

Illusions Editors:

Barbie, Christine, Lisa

You can never
be reminded
enough.
Hope to see you
at the 4th
Illusions
Birthday party

VIEWPOINT

Polish those rhinestones girls, it's birthday party time, as **Illusions turns 4**. The 93-94 year leaves many a good memory and accomplishment for Illusions girls.

We started with our 'new look' magazine, a considerable task to undertake but thanks to the help of Illusions members with their clippings, stories and suggestions, the magazine has brought praise not only from the crossdressing community but from those outside of it. Illusions now reaches from B.C. to Manitoba and new members have joined from the U.S. and as far away as Mexico and Japan. As an editor, I hope you like the product and I encourage you to submit your articles. We all have stories to tell.

Starting with the 3rd Birthday party, attended by over 70 members and friends, the evening went by fast, jammed full of entertainment and laughs. Illusions presented a \$500 cheque to Gay Lines Calgary for their good work in helping people get in contact with us.

Ignoring the summer rains, Illusions girls attended the Mr. NW Drummer contest, the AGRA rodeo and the Coronation 93 ball in Edmonton. The season ended with the 'Girls of Summer' entertainment night which raised \$175 for the Illusions library fund, notice the new bookcase.

Illusions girls have a generous Christmas spirit. We donated boxes of toys and food to the Woman's Shelter and the Food Bank, further to that, a \$500 donation was given to Beswick House, an Aids Hospice.

A social committee was formed and now every Illusions function has a theme or activity. Valentines, Make-up and Photo Night were very successful. Surprisingly, Bingo night showed that Illusions girls could very well take on the best at any city bingo hall. We're having fun now, more to come.

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WHAT'S ON OUR MIND

A great turnout at the 94 Coronation in Calgary, over 15 of us put on our best sequins to see David and Erin's crowning.

And now we are full circle. I hope you will enjoy the coming year's fun at Illusions. We kick off with high heels at the birthday bash on June 11, it'll be the best yet.

And Now Some Food For Thought....

With all respect to the gains of the women's movement in jobs, equal pay and respect, there has been little made in the opposite direction.

Women have forced the doors open into men's only jobs and social clubs. Not often do we hear of titles like: mailman, cameraman, or paper-boy the terms have changed for the ladies who have entered such professions: postee, camera operator, and carrier. In regard to clubs, women have demanded the right to become members of the all male domains, arguing that they aren't for professional men but professional people. Calgary's Petroleum and Ranchmen's Clubs are examples. Little girls now can be Boy Scouts or correctly, Scouts.

Because society has been so male dominated, titles for jobs that are taken by females have the male counter: waiter, or tailor (waitress, seamstress). Titles like nurse or secretary still conjure up the notion that the job is for females. Either the perception of the job has to change or the title (medical assistant, office assistant).

Can a boy become a Guide or can a man join a ladies auxiliary or sorority? My point isn't so that we can wear Brownie uniforms or plaid skirts but that if men feel comfortable engaging in women's activities they should. Such a task seems in some respects, harder than the women's fight. Not only would we have to convince women we would like to partake in roles which were once only there's, we would have to withstand the criticism of the male populace who regard such actions as treason.

Will society tolerate little boys who learn sewing and men who organize bake sales? In the long run, I say yes. Attitudes are softening up, but it will take all of us to encourage the change. At the very least, defend your feminine feelings in conversation, let people know that we can be more than 'just' male or female, we can be people.

Princess Lisa

Where's Sarah N. Dippity?

Although there is still plenty of fab in the crossdressing world, Sarah has a shorter report this issue. That rock n roll article from the last wore her tender fingers dry.

Subscribing that we are all children at heart, you may want to take in a play at the *Calgary International Children's Festival* May 23-28. Of interest to the crossdresser is the short play-Bill's *New Frock*. Bill Simpson wakes up one day to find he is now a girl, (many of us dreamed of that didn't we?) It's a day in the life story as Bill learns what it's like to be a girl: to have less space on the playground, to be expected to be nice, and worst of all wear a dress (odd person!). Tickets to this play which was a hit at the Edinburgh Children's Festival are now at Ticketmaster.

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POSITIVE IDEAS ABOUT LIFE



Illusions Has a Ball

ISCCA PHARAOHS, FAIRIES & FOLKLORE. '93 CORONATION An Evening of Mystical Enchantment

There may not have been any dragons, a few dragon ladies maybe, but over 15 Illusions gals and friends were charmed on April 23 for the annual Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch ball.

After a successful year of raising charity money, Emperor and Empress 17, David and Natalie stepped down before a large crowd of supporters at the Marlborough Inn.

The evening started early, with dinner and onto the royal walk down the 50ft ramp. David and Natalie's court was greeted by dozens of local delegations and out of town courts. Many of which entertained with elaborate stage shows that rival any out of Las Vegas. As many of the entertainers are drag queens, they lip-synched their music, but for Twiggy from Edmonton she could sing her own original song. A true crowd pleaser, and an inspiration to the Illusions gals who ever wanted to speak like a woman.

The evening was long, but not boring and by 12:30 a new Empress was announced. Empress 18 is Erin Whitney Blake Jones, she chose as her Emperor, David who agreed to do just one more year. This will be David's 3rd year as an Emperor of the court. His tireless efforts are appreciated. As the court is a supporter of Illusions, expect to see an article from them in the next issue and you'll get a chance to meet them at the 4th birthday party.

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Another Pink Candle

The Illusions' Girl is Four

By Princess Karen (a.k.a. Ms. Special K)

Organizations may come and go, but one special club began in the early months of 1990 and due to the outstanding efforts of Barbie, Christine and the membership, it is very much alive and flourishing.

I refer to none other than our own Illusions Social Club, organized as a result of a successful wine and cheese party for customers of Lovers Leap and Lingerie By Barbie. An initial twenty people inspired the formation of a club for crossdressers.

The name *Illusions* was chosen, since crossdressing is the portrayal of an Illusions. Small at first, word circulated via the TV grapevine and membership in the club started to increase. Growth could be described as occurring in phases or spurts, five or six in a couple of days, none for a couple of weeks, then another surge of new members, and so it goes.

By year end 1990, membership stood at 75 in Calgary and 20 in Edmonton. It was in mid-December of that year that I joined and I can honestly say that it was a terrific feeling to find an organization which I could genuinely relate to and feel at ease among it's members.

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The first function which I attended part-two of the make-up seminar presented by Bryan Callaghan of S 512. Although I was poorly equipped with make-up, the seminar extremely successful and I am sure members learned a great deal.

The highlights of the past four years are likely some very special treasured moments for our members.

First Birthday Party

This was a classy affair which was highlighted by the first Illusions Empress pageant. Empress Stephanie and her Princesses Anne and Colleen being worthy winners.

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New Club Space

Here we had a classic situation of member involvement, unlike anything I have seen before. Members pooled their talents in framing, painting, plumbing and cleaning. Barbie's new store was the focus of the front side while in the rear, the club got a meeting area, locker room, shower and a large make-up room which was the crown jewel of the premises.

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The new club area had it's grand opening on Saturday, September 14th 1991. Several members performed lip synch numbers and all in attendance enjoyed the evening.

Dressing for Pleasure

Hosted by Twisted Sisters Productions, this was an evening of unusual modes of dress. Everything from leather to latex, stylish to sexy slut. Entertainment courtesy of Terri, Tiffany, Kiwi and myself. It was a very good show and appreciated by those in attendance.

Entertainment Nights

During the early months of 1992, Saturday socials were also entertainment evenings. Our then house band 'Akimbo' was regularly featured as was Ms Special K. The last of these show nights was mid-May.

Second Birthday Party

General format was the same as the first, with pageant for 2nd Empress. Empress Jacquie and Princesses Terri and myself were royalty for 92/93.

Farewell and a Return

In July 92' we said good-bye to Ursula in her 'Farewell Show' to New Brunswick and on Remembrance Day, Ms. Special K brought back the Saturday entertainment, featuring the styles of Dame Vera Lynn.

Continued on page 9 Birthday

Birthday

From page 8

Third Birthday Party

Some excellent performers and a big crowd. Empress Wendy and Princesses Lisa and Randi were worth titles and should reflect well on the Illusions organization.

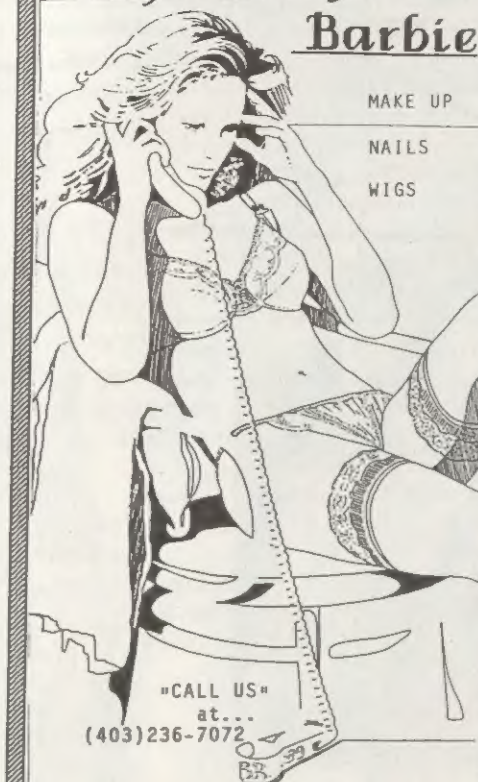
The Girls of Summer

This was another extra curricular "Twisted Sisters" event. Several of the girls put their talents together for an evening dinner show at the former Santana's. Thanks to Empress Wendy, for being the driving Force.

The opportunities to socialize with others of the same mindset has reassured many of us that together we can feel confident in portraying our feminine persona. Some members progress faster than others, we hope that all go at our own pace. I hope that all the more experienced members will extend their help and information to the new members.

Good luck to all Illusions sisters and remember we never stop improving our feminine skills and expertise. It is indeed a way of life.

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spring cleaning *Beauty Workshop*

Are you a beauty junkie? If your medicine chest looks anything like this, it's time to clean up your act. Here, what to stash, what to trash—and how to make what you keep last, plus a guide to goofproof beauty shopping

Give your zit zapper a checkup by checking its expiration date. (Most acne medications remain effective for up to two years.)

A tube of mascara—once opened—should never be kept longer than three months.

Rinse makeup brushes once a week with brush cleaner and store on their sides—not up-right—to dry.

Self-tanners bronze you best within six months of opening; sunscreens come with an expiration date on the package.

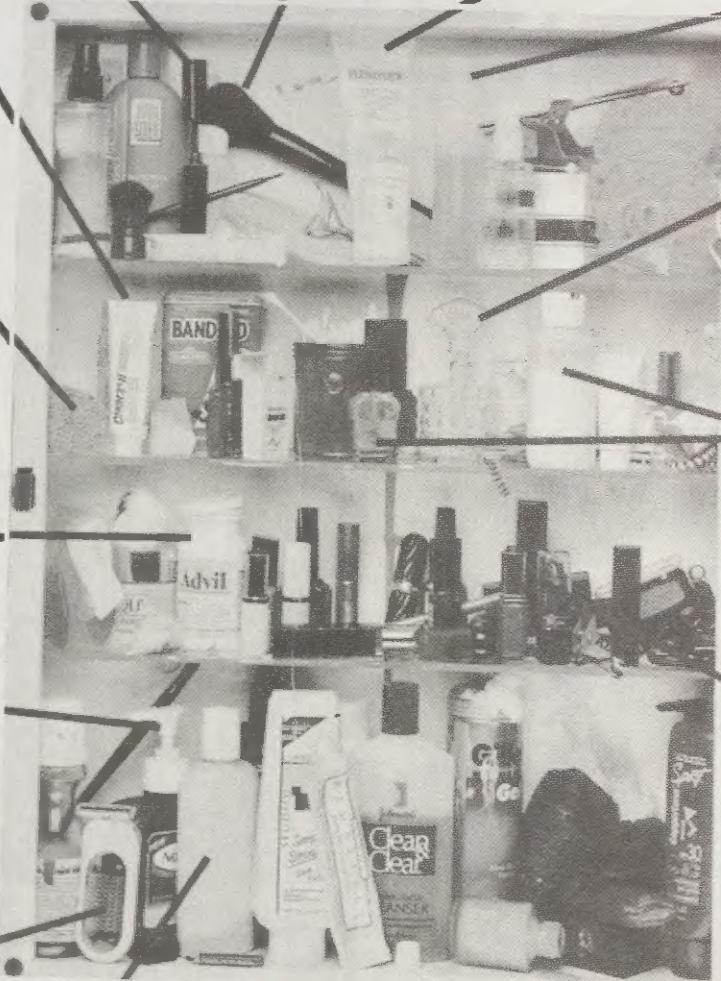
Airtight is right when it comes to products that contain alcohol (nail polishes, removers, etc.). Make sure tops are screwed on tight to prevent evaporation.

Wash makeup sponges frequently in soapy water and leave them out where they can air dry.

Believe it or not, your medicine chest isn't necessarily the best place to store medicine. Find a cool, dry place outside the bathroom (like a closet shelf) for your pills.

Besides being neater, products with pumps keep their contents airtight and bacteria-free.

Trouble removing stubble? Change your razor blade after three to five shaves, if it becomes rusty, or if you drop it.



Since most perfumes are at least 20 percent alcohol, keeping stoppers sealed properly means your fragrances will last longer.

If your skin-care product, nail polish, or any other cosmetic changes in color, smell, or consistency, it's a sure sign it's time to toss!

Heat and humidity from your shower can cause cosmetic meltdown; move your makeup out of the bathroom and into a cool, dry place (like a drawer, vanity, or cosmetics organizer).

Remember.....If you have had it in your Beauty Cabinet for more than 6 months.....
THROW IT OUT!!!!!!

Did You Know?

You can judge a mascara by the packaging

SAMPLING FALL'S NEW MASCARAS CAN BE difficult. At department stores, you have to use tiny disposable brushes; at drugstores, you can't test at all.

Luckily, you can tell a lot about a mascara formula by examining the brush and tube. We talked to cosmetics executives and learned how to "read" packaging. **Density of bristles** Densely packed bristles generally signal a thickening formula (Lancôme's Carecils); sparser bristles allow lengthening and separating (Safari's Climate Response Mascara).

Bristle position Bristles that slant out in opposite directions separate and define individual lashes (L'Oréal's Accentuous). Bristles that stick out in the same direction thicken (Clarion's Sudden Lash).

Brush circumference Fatter brushes roll more mascara onto the lash and are designed to offer one-stroke application; they're usually used with thickening formulas. Thinner brushes encourage multiple strokes: You'll typically find them in lengthening formulas (Clarion's Infinite Lengths).

Shape Football-shaped brushes are designed to reach all lashes in one stroke (Prescriptives' Lashes Gentle Mascara); brushes with one tapered end require two strokes (Givenchy's Mascara Extreme). Curved brushes curl and typically lengthen (Maybelline's Magic Mascara).

What's in a tube? The neck of the tube holds the wipers, which control how much mascara goes onto the brush. The more mascara, the heavier the application. You can only judge wipers by pushing a brush into the tube and pulling it back out—which can't be done in most drugstores. But it's worth considering at a department-store counter with the tester.

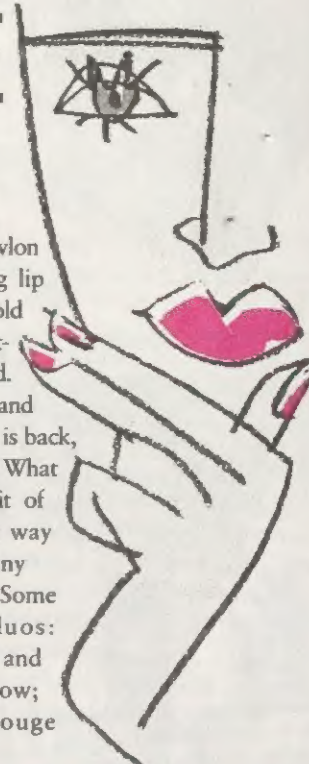
Size can be misleading; a huge tube may contain little mascara. Check the fluid ounces and compare prices.

Before you buy: Examine the brush and read the fine print on the tube.



DOUBLE TAKE

Sixty years ago, Revlon introduced matching lip and nail shades—a bold idea that many cosmetics companies imitated. Now, after going in and out of favor, the look is back, especially for evening. What makes the double hit of color modern is the way it's worn: without any additional makeup. Some of our favorite duos: Revlon's Fire & Ice and Cherries In The Snow; and Lancôme's Rouge



TAKING IT OFF

Rarely is makeup easy to get off. But when there are layers upon layers topped with metallic powder, it seems as if only a sandblaster can do the job. Makeup artists have other solutions. Cold cream, however old-fashioned, does work without drying the skin. Nars strips eye makeup off with sesame seed oil; others recommend eye-makeup removers containing some kind of oil. Some experts say that cotton makes the difference with removers. "A cotton ball is softer than tissue," says makeup artist Jacqui Lefton, "so you can rub more."

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Social Illusions Social Illusions Social Illusions

Make-up makes the Illusions girl!

As winner of the Illusions make-over night prize, Wendy came to the club on March 31st clean faced, or boy-faced for that matter, to be the subject of make-up artist Ty Morgan's demonstration of good make-up techniques for crossdressers. The gals packed the make-up room and watched the over 1 hour demonstration as Ty transformed Wendy to her preferred pretty status.

As we learned there's more to make-up than foundation and lip stick. Thankyou Ty for the excellent

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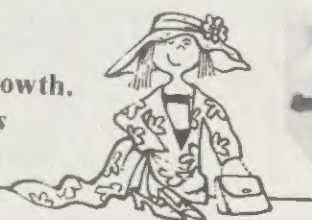
Some Social Committee News.....

Your social committee is proud to announce that we have started a fund, not big but hopefully growing which will raise money for a lighting system at the club. In coming socials we will be trying to raise the fund through various fun activities, really-fun activities.

Learn to Walk night got the some girls to leave the club with a certain sway, not enough time to learn the talking part, so we'll have to do that at a later meeting. Photo night on April 28, was so successful that we stayed well in to the wee hours just trying to get the long list of gals photos taken. The photos look great, we may have to do another session soon.

Get ready for the birthday party, and any budding Emperesses or Princesses get your name into Barbie for the contest. Tickets to the party are now on sale at the club.

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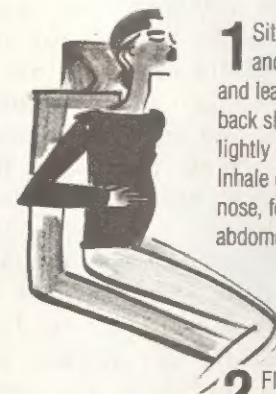


[health & fitness]

BODY BASIC:

Seated tension releaser

Try this move while on an airplane, in a car or at your desk to ease stiffness in your upper back and shoulders.



1 Sit with your arms and stomach relaxed and lean your head back slightly. Rest hands lightly on abdomen. Inhale deeply through your nose, feeling your abdomen balloon with air.



2 Flatten abdominal muscles as you exhale, pressing the small of the back into the chair and squeezing shoulder blades down and together. Push head back into seat. Hold for 5 seconds. Start with 3 repetitions. Gradually increase to 10 reps, holding each time for 10 seconds.

sunscreens

TOP CHOICES

Bain de Soleil ALL DAY Waterproof Sunblock (SPF 15)

Kiss Off by Kiss My Face Outdoor Protection (SPF 15)

Coppertone SPORT Dry Lotion (SPF 30)

Physicians Formula Sun Shield Moisture Formula (SPF 20)

Aveda Daily Light Guard (SPF 15)

Head for the hills!

RUNNING OR WALKING ON HILLS NOT ONLY ADDS VARIETY TO YOUR workouts, it's a great way to shape up your buttocks and thighs. Research has shown that these muscles work harder on inclines than they do on level ground, even though the exerciser's pace may be slower. For starters, limit your hill workouts to twenty-second bursts; walk until your breathing recovers, then repeat up to six more times, recommends Atlanta-based running coach Roy Benson. Doing short bursts lowers your risk of injury as well as postworkout muscle soreness. As you become more conditioned, you can increase the length of the burst to 30 seconds. Challenge yourself with both long hills (ones that extend for half a mile) and short ones. If you don't live near hilly terrain, create your own—using a treadmill or stadium steps early one weekend morning. To get the most from hill workouts, your form is key:

Don't give hills the runaround; think of them as opportunities to increase your cardiovascular capacity, your muscle strength and your stamina. Gradually, you'll find you can work out more easily on both flat ground and hills.

BODY BASIC:

Waist whittler crunch

Doing crunches with your legs in this position is one of the most effective ways to isolate abdominals.



1 Lie on back as shown, knees bent and ankles crossed. Place hands behind head.



2 Exhale, twisting torso to reach left elbow to right knee. Return to start and repeat on opposite side. Start with 15 repetitions on each side; work up to 30.

Uphill

- Lean into the hill, bending forward slightly from the hips, letting hip and buttocks muscles do most of the work.
- Take shorter, quicker steps.
- Move your arms vigorously, in a large, but not overly exaggerated, swing.
- Don't bound uphill.

Downhill

- Lean back slightly to slow yourself down.
- Take short, quick steps.
- Widen your arm swing for better control.
- Don't clomp downhill.

SUNBURN ALERT

Isn't a sunscreen all the sun protection I need? A sunscreen is not a sun block: it provides only partial UV protection. The proof? "You can still tan through an SPF 15 sunscreen." Any ultra violet light that reaches the skin can do damage. Sunscreen should be only one third of your sunblock plan. The other two thirds: wearing protective clothing and avoid the sun during 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

TRANSGENDERISM and THE MEDIA

It seems, to one on this side of the completely unnecessary and false wall generated by transgenderism, that the media searches out and highlights the sensationalistic aspects of transgenderism. The instances of transgendered individuals being portrayed in a positive light are so few as to be able to be counted on one hand. Does it not seem reasonable that for every instance of crime that there must be, somewhere, an instance of good being perpetrated by a transgendered individual?

The type of media coverage most commonly 'enjoyed' by the transgendered community is that which is generated by a misguided soul caught while committing a crime. There are numerous reports of transvestites having been caught at petty theft or shoplifting.

Reports of 'insane' acts like a man driving through an enclosed shopping mall while wearing a wig and makeup. Reports of a transvestite shoplifting ring in Florida. More recently, reports of gangs of hoods and gunmen dressed in, of all things, wedding gowns, raping and pillaging in a strife-torn Middle East nation.

Second in frequency only to the criminal reporting are the reports of impostors. Reports of beauty queens and models that have been revealed to be transsexuals. Reports of famous people "taken in" by transsexuals, whether pre- or post-operative.

Where are the balancing reports of the act of heroism being performed by transgendered individuals? Where are

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the reports of the couples that are happily married and in which one partner is transgendered? This type of media exposure is sadly lacking, and because of this lack, transgendered individuals are all tarred with the same wide, indiscriminate brush stroke.

Television talk shows have, in the past few years, started to try to shed some light on the plight of the transgendered. While the majority of the information presented on the shows is positive in nature, there is unavoidably some misinformation presented. This misinformation can be reinforced if the talk show's resident psychologist is of the old school, the one that taught that transgenderism is something that needs to be eradicated, something that is undesirable.

There are problems with the talk show approach other than the potential for propagating misinformation, though. Quite often the title of the show is something like, "Transvestites and Their Red-neck Mothers-in-Law". This type of title is purely sensationalistic in nature and portrays the transgendered community in a less than complimentary light. A larger problem is that these talk shows are broadcast during the daylight hours when the audience is not representative of society as a whole.

Movies and prime-time television are notorious in their portrayal of transgendered individuals in the criminal element. Most often, they are portrayed as prostitutes, drug pushers or hold-up artists. There have been a few instances of positive portrayals, ones in which positive results have come from crossdressing. One of these is the movie "Tootsie" in which crossdressing was portrayed as a means to an end, but without any wrong intent. It is a pleasant change from the "Drag Queen" that is usually shown by the media.

What the transgendered community needs is more of the positive media coverage that is so hard to get in this world where bad and sensational news gets the front page and the biggest headlines. Most of the transgendered people in the world are just plain people that are afraid to show themselves for who they really are for fear of the ridicule and derision for them that has been ingrained into our society.

By Cindy Dixon



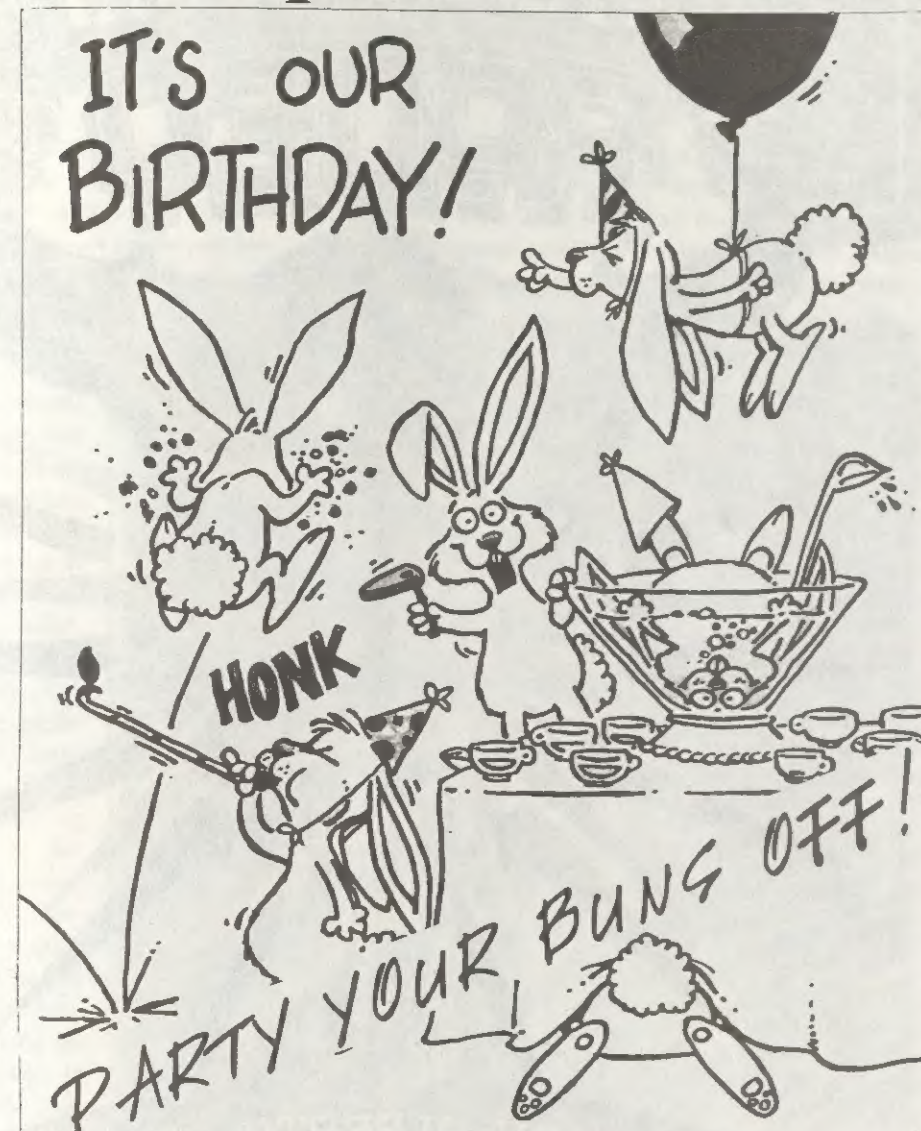
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The Weaker Sex

... men or women? Consider: women get breast cancer. But men get prostate cancer. Women live longer. Uh-huh—with Alzheimer's and osteoporosis. So who comes out ahead healthwise? Anne Roiphe weighs the advantages.

AH, THE AGE-OLD QUESTION: is it better to be born male or female? If you could choose your gender which would it be?

If what we want to know are the best biological odds for a long and healthy life, we will begin by comparing the fragility of male and female organs, examining each gender's susceptibility to deadly disease. But the more comparisons we attempt, the less definitive the answers become.

In a strictly biological sense, anatomy is destiny, leading us to different diseases at different times in our lives. Despite our female prejudices—our immediate tendency to think of men as feeling and suffering less—the answer to this gender question remains unclear, even when we factor in the potential for emotional pain and psychological scarring. Girls are born with an immediate advantage. It is a Darwinian one. The species needs more females to survive and so the female baby is hardier. Birth defects are evenly divided between the sexes, although dreaded autism tends to affect three times more boys than girls. By nursery school, girls are usually stronger, taller, more mature. And there tends to be more of them in the general population. Psychologically, the task of separating from mother, developing a gender identity and understanding sexual differences is equally complicated for both boys and girls.

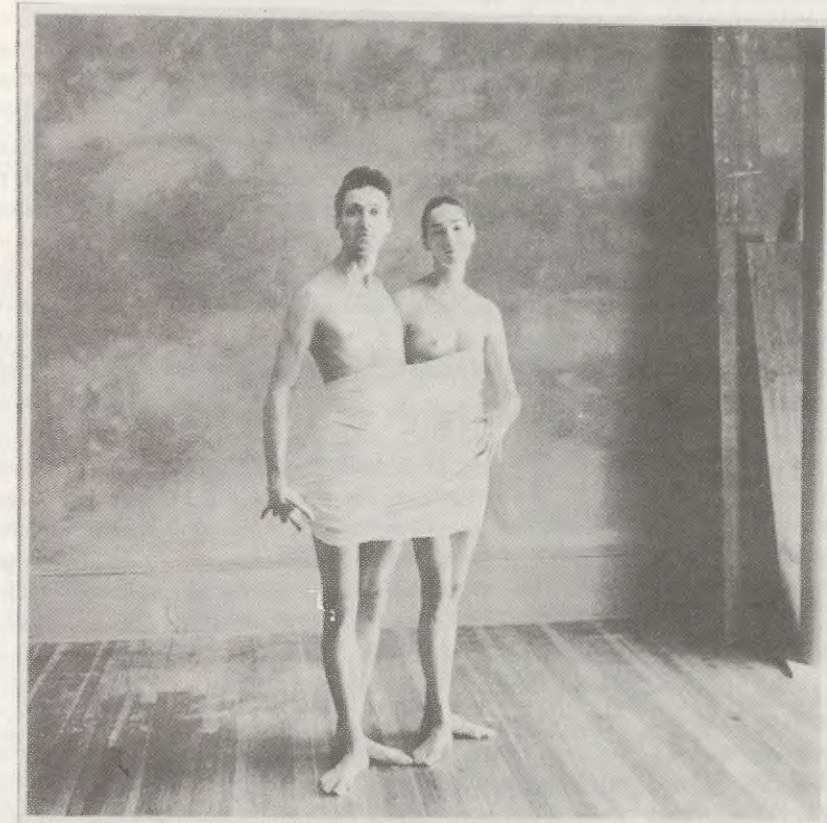
Anatomy, in this society, makes males and females think differently. The little boy has a penis, which seems only to worry him—will it stay on, will something

happen to it? He has to figure it out. The little girl must learn to think symbolically. She must take on faith the cloistered treasure-house of womb and vagina that her body contains. Advantage neither.

strual cramps. Her body may bloat and her skin erupt. It's a sign of growing up, but nobody says it's all fun. Kleptomaniacs, anorexics, bulimics, hair-pullers are female.

Both sexes are buffeted by biological changes, by insecurity, by fears of being undesirable. The male must exhibit his sexual competence. The female can fake it. Advantage female, sort of.

She looks for commitment and love and he looks for hormone release. Her species' job is to create a family. His is to spread his sperm. They are at odds, but both are vulnerable to their own failures, to their own impulses. Testosterone makes males foolish. Estrogen makes females foolish. Each speeds to a mating that might better wait. She will suffer most the consequences of out-of-wedlock experimentation. Each fears failure, loneliness, inadequacy.



The biological changes of adolescence create psychological and physical hurdles for both males and females. In puberty the male wakes with dampness on his sheets and confusion in his head. Wet dreams alarm the young boy. His body changes. His voice squeaks. His penis responds to orders his head hasn't given. He has high hopes for strength and manhood, hopes that must be proven through performance. Peeping Toms, transvestites and flashers are male.

The girl faces the fright and mystery of menstruation along with the promise and awe of reproduction. She may suffer men-

Biology hounds us all. Advantage neither.

Childbirth and death were constant companions in other ages. Until a Hungarian physician pioneered obstetrical hygiene, women who became pregnant may have faced greater odds of dying than men in battle. Now, antibiotics cure infections and cesareans save lives of both mother and infant. Although giving birth is less daring today, the emotional strain of childbirth and child care takes its own toll. No matter Lamaze, innovative birthing techniques, bonding and all that, being a parent is still fraught with the potential for pain and trouble. Both father and mother will

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suffer deeply if a child is born damaged, or later fails to flourish. Fertility problems can crash a woman's life. Men suffer, too, but seem less cut to their core when childless. At least this was so in other eras, when males were judged and judged themselves more by work accomplishments than by family experience. Advantage male ... for the time being.

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The prostateless woman has the advantage. Men do get testicular and breast cancer. While these are horrendous illnesses, the number of actual cases is quite small when compared with the incidence of breast cancer in women. If she lives into her mid-eighties, one woman in eight will have breast cancer at some point. Each year the disease strikes 182,000 women and claims 46,000 lives. This really amounts to a plague. Though the majority of women are postmenopausal when breast cancer strikes, we all know young mothers who developed this illness during pregnancy and did not live to see their children grow. The threat of this malignancy causes us to press anxiously at our breasts, go for annual checkups and hold our breaths till someone reads our mammograms and declares them momentarily clear. If a cancerous lump is discovered we undergo surgery, radiation, chemotherapy. We have to learn to love ourselves incomplete. We have to survive sexually the apparent mutilation and the terrible threat to our womanhood and our

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On the other hand, men get prostate cancer. This disease kills 35,000 men each year. It is a cruel irony that the prostate gland, so helpful in the creation of life, can, with no symptoms at all, deliver a death sentence. Its victims are usually over sixty when the disease strikes. They are not cut down in the prime of life as is so often the case with women stricken with breast cancer. Still, the male with prostate cancer—like the woman with breast or uterine cancer who feels less feminine—has been attacked in his gender. Doctors are just beginning to discover the extreme psychological pain men suffer when faced with a surgical threat to the penis (think of every man you know responding to the Bobbitt case).

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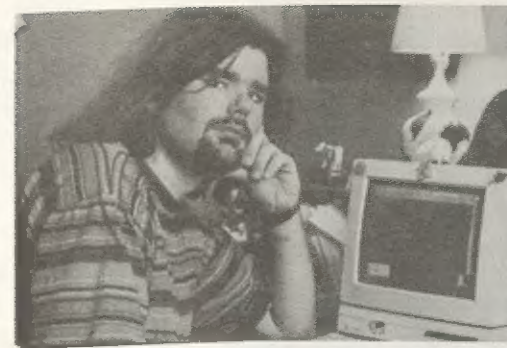
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Man for a day

BY ELIZABETH KUSTER

GOO ON, ADMIT IT: AT ONE time or another, you've wondered just what it would be like to be a guy for a day. I found out firsthand.

My transformation took place under the direction of Diane Torr, a New York City performance artist who conducts "Drag King" workshops to teach women (some of whom are actresses) how to "walk, sit, talk and lie down—like a man."

I bought a man's suit (the saleswoman didn't bat an eye, but the guys in the men's dressing room seemed alarmed) and went

to Diane's apartment. She looked me over and immediately handed me a book of sample mustaches. (I chose Errol Flynn's.) We bound my breasts, created a mustache by gluing little bits of fake hair to my upper lip, slicked my hair back and put black eye-shadow on my chin to simulate five o'clock shadow. For the first time in my life, I was glad I had sideburns.

"It's the rare woman who can't be transformed into a man," Diane remarked. Yeah, right. I was certain my femininity would somehow show. Then I looked in the mirror. After a moment of silence, the *Glamour* photographer spoke. "You look like my cousin Richie," she said.

Before going out in public, Diane gave me some lessons on body language: "Some men sit like they own the chair, with their knees apart and their butt all the way to the back," she said. "They don't smooth their hair, stroke their face or touch any body part that isn't their crotch. Also, they walk from side to side, moving from their shoulders." She demonstrated. I tried to follow suit, but my hips insisted on getting into the act. "Well, the mustache and the suit should get you by," Diane



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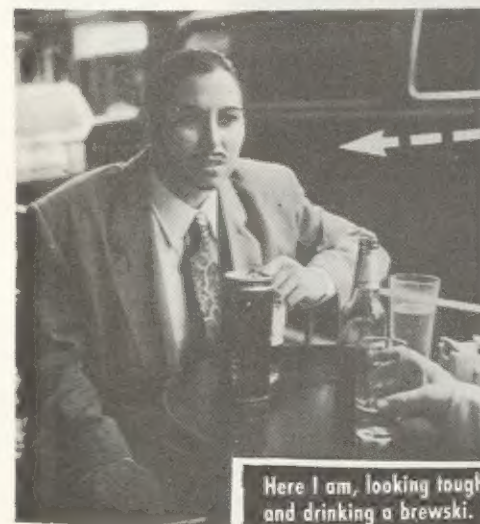
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"A woman," I said, laughing.

He turned around and started driving. "Oh, my God," he said.



Here I am, looking tough and drinking a brewski.



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Seeing myself with mojo facial hair was no picnic.

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Height: 6'3"
Weight: 180 lbs.
Size: 14 Ultra-tall
Age: 35
Eyes: Blue
Femme Hair: Auburn
Sign: Cancer
Likes: **dressy, form-fitting clothes like evening gowns; desserts, especially chocolate; spicy foods; travel; music, especially Motown and stuff with a really hypnotic beat**
Dislikes: **broken nails; turnip; yahoos; speed limits (especially with multanova radar cameras!)**
Greatest Hope: **that someone will invent a machine for putting on lashes!**

Teri

How did you start crossdressing?

The first girl I ever really noticed as a girl was in Grade Seven. I still remember her name and have a vision of her impressed in my mind. But unlike most guys, what I thought about most was how wonderful it would be to look as beautiful as her. I remember being interested in female clothing from then on, although I think the first time I actually tried wearing any was Grade Eight. I used to try on my mother's things and also my sister's. At that stage it was mostly just lingerie. How I managed not to get caught I'll never know, considering the risks I took. I even sneaked into my sister's room quite often while she was sleeping to borrow her things and then return them.

The only time I came close to getting caught at home was during the summer when I worked night shifts and both my parents were away during the day. My dad came home unexpectedly and he entered one end of the hall just as I disappeared into my room at the other end. Another split second and my life might have taken quite a different turn!

Photography by Alexis

Do you remember anything in your childhood that caused your interest in dressing up?

My childhood was normal in most respects. I seldom saw my dad due to the long hours he worked, but that was quite common back then. What was unusual was that due to my dad's job we moved every year or so. Because of that I almost never had any friends and was frequently bullied and even, in later years, sexually assaulted by other more aggressive boys. I don't know whether this was why, but I always found the company of women much more enjoyable than that of men. In fact, before Illusions, I had very few male friends as an adult and never felt I had anything in common with them. Almost all my friends have always been women. When I was quite young I was very emotional, but that drew a lot of criticism from my teachers (boys weren't supposed to cry), so I developed the ability to suppress my feelings "like a

real man should". Since school life wasn't very pleasant, I became quite withdrawn and read voraciously. That was my escape mechanism.

In high school I became a little more outgoing, but was still very shy. I didn't date at all and my sister said some of her friends asked her if I was gay. Actually I think the reason was I didn't like guys very much and since I was one, I didn't think girls would like me, either, so I was afraid to ask for fear of rejection.

How did your crossdressing interest develop from those early years?

For several years I dressed "in the closet" and prayed every night that I would wake up a girl or that spacemen (or women!) would take me away and return me as a girl. I dreamed about doing everything a real woman would do, including have a baby. Since I'm so tall

(6'3") I could never find clothes that fit right, so that really constrained me to lingerie for a long time. Since I couldn't get what I needed to look right, at one point I tried to give it up and "purged" when I was about 20. Fortunately I didn't have much stuff anyway, and that's the only time I ever did it. Before long, though, I bought my first wig (a blonde page-boy) for \$10 in a mall sidewalk sale and that started everything again.

Eventually I found a few things that fit so-so and even tried going out late at night when I lived in downtown Toronto. That led to the scariest event of my life. I was out for a stroll and when a cop car came by I ducked into the shadow of a tree. That suspicious behaviour caught their attention and they got out and came over and questioned me. Fortunately they were quite polite and let me go once they realized I hadn't done anything.

Did you ever have any contact with other TVs back then?

No, never. I did see one once, though. I was out for a walk late one night on Jarvis Street in Toronto (not the best part of town) and a very stylishly dressed, petite young woman came out of a townhouse and stood there waiting. Just as I passed, her patience wore out and she called to her friends inside to hurry it up. From her voice it was clear she was a guy. But boy, was her look ever impressive.

How did dressing affect your relationships?

I didn't date until I was well into my twenties, and then only for a few years. I never told any of my girlfriends about my crossdressing; I was way too paranoid back then. When I was dating someone I would put away my femme clothes and just dream. I think for a while I felt a real conflict between thinking that I had to find somebody and settle down and a subconscious questioning of whether that was what I really wanted to do. Eventually I did get into one quite serious relationship that broke up only when I had to move to further my education.

In the end, I think it was a good thing I didn't carry through with any of those relationships. My experiences with the one serious relationship as well as seeing my sister's family life has made me realize I don't think I have the capacity for compromise that it takes to build a life with someone else. I can only preserve my easygoing approach to the world if I know I can retreat from it to one where I control everything. That may be an aspect of the obsessive personality that a lot of crossdressers seem to have and that I may have inherited some of from my father.

Was that breakup a turning point?

In a way it was. As that relationship went downhill in early 1986, I started to get more serious about dressing. I made my first serious effort at makeup and a few months before moving away from Toronto I decided to try going out in daylight. There was a mall right across the street and after a few dry runs in the park I went for a walk-through. Although in retrospect I probably looked a real mess, nobody paid any attention. In fact, a guy held the door open for me when I went into the mall. That was when I realized how little people look at one another when in public. After that, apart from a brief period when I lived in a university residence, I went out probably at least once a month for walks in low-density areas where I wouldn't get too close to anyone (it's a lot easier to pass at 30 feet than at three feet!).

Illusions' Girl Centerfold

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Did you ever think about "going all the way" with an operation?

I think most crossdressers think about it at least a little at some point. Eventually I realized that there were no miracles. If anything was going to happen, it was up to me. After I finished university and moved to Calgary I went through a summer (1991) where I dressed every minute I possibly could. (I had discovered that JC Penney had an ultra-tall size that fit me like a glove and started to build a small wardrobe.) I went out a lot (in low-density areas, as before) and just tried to see if I could do it. A few times I was more daring and went for a ride on the C-Train or strolled through Market Mall, without major incident.

continued on page 22, Teri

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Teri, from page 21

Part of what led me to be so bold was the death of my mom from cancer that spring. It would have devastated her to find out about me, and that was always my greatest fear. She would have blamed herself for how I turned out, and I loved her too much to risk that happening. I spent a couple of weeks of my holidays in May caring for her in her very last days, and after I got over the shock of her death I felt I had to get on with living the rest of my life as I wanted. Maybe it made me realize that we only have a short time here, and it can be cut short by factors beyond our control (she had just turned 59).

On a lighter note, the funniest/scariest thing that happened during that phase was when two old ladies driving down the street stopped to ask me for directions. After choking back the panic I mustered up the softest, most feminine voice I could on the spur of the moment (which wasn't very good, I assure you!) and told them I wasn't sure where it was, since that was the quickest way I could think of to end the conversation. The lady who asked just thanked me and drove off, seemingly without noticing a thing. I guess her hearing aid must not have been very good!

In the end, though, I faced reality and decided that with my height, build, voice, hairline, career, etc. there was just no way that an operation was a realistic option. I could pass at a distance, but there was no way I could survive close scrutiny. If I did it, it would mean ending up not fitting in anywhere. Besides which, I wasn't attracted to guys anyway. So I decided the best thing to do was to just play at it part-time and see how good I could get.

How did you come to join Illusions?

It had never even occurred to me that there might be such a thing as Illusions. Fifteen years or so ago, though, I had seen ads for Michael Salem's TV boutique and even ordered a few things from him (overpriced junk, in hindsight). And when I lived in downtown Toronto

"Now I feel like I'm starting to be the person I always wanted to be."

This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.

just south of the "gay ghetto" around the St. Charles Tavern on Yonge Street) there was a short-lived second-floor dress shop just north of Yonge & Wellesley called Debbies that catered to TVs according to the sign on the sidewalk. (Unfortunately I never got up the courage to go in, though I got halfway up the stairs a couple of times.) So I thought there might be a store somewhere in Canada (certainly not in staid, red-neck Calgary!) that might be able to help me get the large sizes I needed, better wigs, advice, etc. I went to a Source adult video store last spring to look for a magazine that might have ads like that. I bought two publications and lo and behold, there was an ad for Illusions in one and for the Wildside Boutique in the other.

I had to go to Toronto on business so I allowed a little extra time so I could go to the Wildside boutique, figuring that way if "coming out" was a disaster, at least it would be far away. I phoned and booked an appointment for June 23. I went for a makeup lesson and then in their lounge I met the first crossdresser I had ever spoken to. By coincidence, that day

when Teri was "born" was my 35th birthday.

Since that went OK, when I got back I worked up my courage and went to see Barbie. I joined and then came to my first social July 10, 1993. Everyone was very friendly, especially Diane, my first close friend at the club, and then we all went out to Santana's afterwards. When I got home I couldn't believe what I had done, but it was just the beginning. Since joining I've learned so much about makeup, hair, clothes and so on and benefited from the skills of so many people (like Barbie, who has custom-made most of my dresses, and Ty Morgan, the makeup master). Now I feel like I'm really starting to be the person I always wanted to be—at least on Saturday nights! The club offers me both the resources and the opportunity to "be all that you can be".

For example, last Halloween a few of us went to a party in a "straight" hotel and we were a big hit. Stephanie even won first prize in the costume contest

continued next page,

Contest, continued

It was such a thrill to be admired instead of reviled! Then just recently we got a group together to go to a play at the Performing Arts Centre. We had cleared everything in advance so it all went perfectly smoothly, no one even batted an eyelash at us. I think if we wait for windows of opportunity and do some pre-arranging of such expeditions, we can eventually do just about anything we might dream about. Too bad it can't be a bit more spontaneous, though. Oh well, maybe in a few years we'll build up some tolerance through controlled exposure...

The club also put my dressing into a special, reserved place in my rather busy schedule. For the last several years, when I dress I always go all or nothing. I want to lose all signs of my male self, and I don't care how much time, shaving or expense is involved. Needless to say, that means a major time commitment each time. Having structured activities ensures that I carve out the time for Teri that she needs to keep me happy in my life as a whole.

Apart from dressing up, is there more of a feminine side to you?

In personality terms, yes. I tend

to devote a lot of time to helping people in my work, to be very non-confrontational and to spend a lot of time on the interpersonal aspects of getting things done. And I'm easily hurt at times, even though I don't show it. But in terms of activities, I guess I've been pretty well socialized as a male, so I have typical male, gadget-oriented hobbies like photography (though I detest watching sports on TV—that's television, girls!).

The only thing I do that many people consider feminine is bake, but that has more to do with the sweet tooth I developed as a child. When I moved out on my own, I got my mom's recipes and started making them. I was running 10K a day back then, so I needed huge quantities of calories. I would bake two or three times a week in the university dorm's communal kitchen, and any of my friends that were around inevitably got samples. In fact, if I wanted to meet someone, I'd bake something up and arrange to "coincidentally" run into them. I got a lot of good-natured ribbing about it, like "you'll make someone a good wife someday". If they only knew!!

What else do you want to accomplish, CD-wise?

Well, like everyone I want to continue to improve my makeup skills, and especially

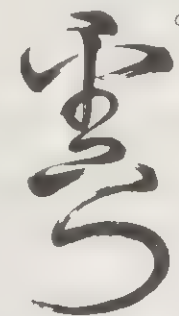
learn more about hair styling. I'd also like to see if I can't develop a reasonable feminine voice: it sort of seems odd to be all dressed up and have this deep voice. It's the last part Teri needs to make her complete. And of course, I've got to get more clothes as fast as Barbie can sew them!

Now that I'm starting to feel a little bit more comfortable with my feminine appearance, I'd also like to try a little performing, like lip-synch and maybe even standup comedy. And I want to learn to dance well. Although I'm shy at first, once I'm comfortable with a situation I become kind of a ham. I also want to develop a portfolio of nice pictures. That's hard because I'm not very photogenic. And some time I'd like to go to one of those big CD conferences, just to see what they're like.

Finally, I guess I want to help everyone in the club feel good about themselves. That's why I joined the social committee. If we have lots of fun events, it will keep people's morale high, and they'll consider their dressing what it is: a source of harmless fun, not something to feel guilty about or analyze to death. It seems like a lot of people worry too much about why they do what they do or whether it's "right". I say, just have fun, and if you do, it will help you be more successful in the rest of your life.

What people still don't know.....

- ANNUAL SURVEYS OF AMERICANS' KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HIV show that many are still dangerously misinformed. Make no mistake: Women are at risk and need to know the facts about AIDS. In 1992, the rate of increase in AIDS cases was four times faster among women than among men, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Women accounted for 14 percent of the AIDS cases last year, and the number is growing rapidly.
- For the first time in the epidemic, heterosexual transmission outpaced intravenous drug use as the leading cause of the disease in American women (see top chart). Ten metropolitan areas accounted for more than half the cases among women (see bottom chart). Rates of infection were markedly higher for black and Hispanic women than for non-Hispanic whites.
- Results of the latest National Health Interview Survey of American adults highlight men and women's knowledge gaps:
- Many are ill-informed about casual transmission: Only about half know that the chance of getting the AIDS virus by being coughed on or sneezed on by an infected person, or by eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus, is extremely small or nonexistent.
- Only 64 percent know that one can't get AIDS from using public toilets.
- Other dangerous misconceptions: Seventy-three percent still do not know that oil-based lubricants, such as petroleum jelly, cause latex condoms to break; 30 percent still do not know that a person can't get HIV by donating blood.
- 71 percent of adult Americans have never been tested for antibodies to HIV and thus don't know whether or not they carry the virus.



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Reaching out to others
Dave Nurmi
N.S. Products

I receive many letters each day, week, month, and year and none has ever touched me like this one did. I have tried for over 10 years, to reach into the closets and reach the person that is feeling alone and unworthy. This came to light again this month (March 94) when I was following up on an old mailing list. I was using the mailing to update and attempt to contact old customers and persons that I have not heard from in quite a while. I usually get back a large percentage of 'box closed' or 'moved-forward expired', but when I opened this letter, I was devastated. I only share this letter with you because I feel that WE ALL need to do more in the outreach area. Vendors, club members, even those that do not participate in organized clubs, WE ALL need to attempt to reach the people like the one described in this letter I received. I have omitted some information for the privacy of the family and I have changed the name of the family involved. Most of you already know me and understand this is an honest effort to open your eyes and take that extra step through what ever means you have. Computer BBS, letters to the editor, letters to 'Dear Abby' or any of those other publications, adult or regular.

Here is the letter. Please read slowly and soak up all of the feelings. It will never leave your mind once you have read it.

FEB. 28, 1994

YOU SAY IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE YOU HAVE HEARD FROM MY SON. WELL, I GUESS IT HAS BEEN. YOU SAY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIM BACK WITH YOU. WELL, SO WOULD I. WE FOUND HIM DEAD *--*--*--*. YOUR LETTER OPENED A LOT OF WOUNDS AGAIN. MY HUSBAND DID NOT KNOW OF OUR SONS CROSSDRESSING UNTIL WE FOUND HIM DEAD. IN A WEDDING DRESS NO LESS. I REALLY FEEL SORRY FOR THE YOUNG AND OLD WHO FIND THE NEED TO CROSSDRESS AND THE EROTIC SEX THAT GOES WITH CROSSDRESSING. PLEASE DON'T SEND ANYMORE MAIL TO OUR HOME

THANK YOU

MOTHER OF 'JOHN SMITH'

Well, there it is. My hands still shake everytime I read it. What could I have done differently to stop this tragedy? What could you have done differently to stop it?

I am not trying to point blame on any of us, but maybe, just maybe, one of us, you or I, could have said one sentence to him to help him understand that he is not alone. He is not a deviant. He is not strange or alone. We are a community, and it is important that we all reach out, touch each other, and say, I am ok, we are ok, you are ok.

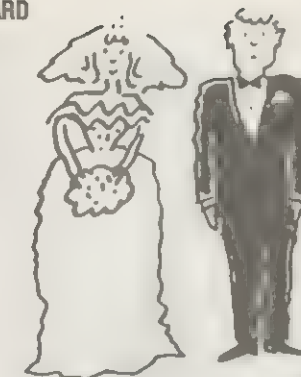
Well, enough of my preaching. Please, do not destroy this letter from where ever you obtained it from. Place it in a place where you can read it, see it, remind you about where you were as a young man, how you felt, did you feel alone, different, maybe even suicidal? Not everyone is strong enough to stand up through that kind of pressure.

Dave Nurmi

the world according to he & she

BY JULIE LOGAN AND ARTHUR HOWARD

Wedding countdown



What SHE does to get ready for the big day

ONE YEAR BEFORE THE WEDDING ● Goes with fiancé to select the ring. ● Chooses wedding site. ● Searches for wedding dress. ● Books photographer and video guy. ● Begins working on guest list. ● Fights with mother over the wedding site, dress, photographer, video guy and guest list. EIGHT MONTHS BEFORE... ● Chooses dress and begins excruciating series of alterations. SIX MONTHS BEFORE... ● Picks out bridesmaids' dress (honestly trying to find something that will flatter them all, really). ● Fights with hysterical bridesmaids because they hate the dress. ● Finalizes her part of guest list. ● Reminds groom to make up his guest list. ● Chooses tuxedos. ● Dress fitting No. 2 (looking good, the basic shape is there). FOUR MONTHS BEFORE... ● Calls future mother-in-law for groom's guest list. ● Tries to interest groom in the flower selection (no dice). ● Registers china, silver and linen patterns. ● Tells groom he can never again utter the words "You decide." Dress fitting No. 3 (getting closer). THREE MONTHS BEFORE... ● Fights with mother about the hors d'oeuvres. ● Lines up caterer (giving up dream of salmon *en croûte*, chooses breast of chicken). ● Dress fitting No. 4 (almost there). TWO MONTHS BEFORE... ● Shower No. 1—general theme (kitchen, bathroom stuff). ● Buys shoes, undergarments, stockings et al to complete the bridal ensemble. ● Vetoes the groom's suggestion to use Metallica lyrics in the wedding vows. ONE MONTH BEFORE... ● Shower No. 2—personal theme (lingerie and sexy stuff). ● Dress fitting No. 5 (she's lost so much weight from the stress that the dress has to be completely reconstructed). THREE WEEKS BEFORE... ● Books hairdresser, manicurist and makeup artist. ● Buys bridesmaids' gift (it's gotta be jewelry; it's gotta be nice). TWO WEEKS BEFORE... ● Shower No. 3—round-the-clock theme (gift must be useful for a specified hour). ● Final fitting (it'll have to do); brings dress home. ● Fights with mother about seating arrangements. ● Confides to best friend that if she had to do it over again, she'd elope. TWO DAYS BEFORE... ● Bridesmaids' luncheon. ● Fights with mother about incoming relatives. ● Collars perfect strangers on the street and announces that if she had to do it over again, she'd elope. ONE DAY BEFORE... ● Races around to find "something borrowed," which she had completely forgotten. ● Gets hair styled and nails done before the rehearsal dinner. ● Entertains everybody who arrives from everywhere. ● Meets up with the groom at rehearsal dinner. (Remember him?)

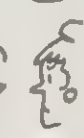
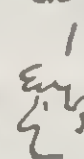
What HE does to get ready for the big day

ONE YEAR BEFORE THE WEDDING ● Goes with fiancée to select the ring. ● Pays for ring.

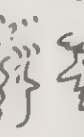


"I won't wear it!"

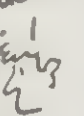
"You decide."



"You decide."



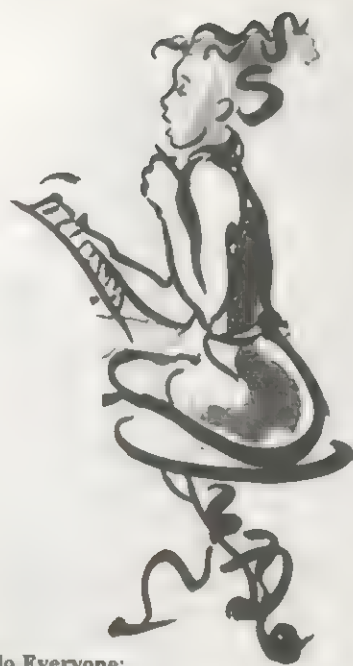
"You decide."



TWO DAYS BEFORE... ● Shows up at the bachelor party.

ONE DAY BEFORE... ● Recovers from the bachelor party. ● Shows up at the rehearsal dinner.

Dear Madge,
A girl can never have too many toaster ovens



Hello Everyone:
It's Charlene's Thoughts from the Rainy Coast

It's a rainy evening (what else is new!) with lots to do but not in the mood for...so, I thought I'd just write a short and very overdue note to all the ladies at Illusions. Living 650 miles away is a downer, for I see all the exciting things going on at your functions and I wish I could be there with all of you.

I'm in the Cornbury group out here and we get together once a month for meetings with varied agendas and outings. However the turnouts are not nearly those of the Calgarians. We do have fun though. Our meetings are usually in a hotel in the downtown core which makes for nervous and fun saunters through the lobby on the way to and from the elevators. Last month was at the Hotel Vancouver which I found a little unnerving (for no reason); and one of our ladies was actually chatting with the house dick (detective that is!!) with no problem. So Vancouver is a mixed town in that you can go almost anywhere with care providing you dress and act appropriately for the local. The theme of the meeting was portraits, two of the ladies are professional photographers. One took several portrait shots of each of us and we're to receive the negs at the next meeting. Previous meeting have included a night at a consignment boutique, which was a blast, visits from a wig boutique and make-up pros, and dinners at restaurants. So we do have fun.

[letters from readers]

Dear Barbie, Christine and Lisa,

Recently I received a copy of your newsletter from a friend in Edmonton. I was most grateful for this, as it allowed a glimmer of hope, at a time which, until then had been quite lonely.

I am a married Regina resident, who has struggled for a long time with very strong transsexual feelings. My search for support groups, and similar individuals in the area where I live, has come up dry and I feel compelled to reach out further to find someone with whom I can share with and come to terms with my own identity and convictions.

I have an understanding and sympathetic wife, who has been aware of my conflict for some time. However, as I'm sure you're aware, this is not something that can easily be understood by someone who does not harbour these feelings for themselves.

Looking at your photos and reading the accompanying write-ups, I'm impressed by how satisfied you all seem with this component of your lives. I feel it would be rewarding for me to open up the lines of communication to someone else like myself. To withhold these feelings is indeed a painful experience, as I'm sure you all know.

Hoping to hear from you soon! *Bev*

The last newsletter was great. Thanks to all the ladies who put endless hours into putting the publication in press. It is a most enjoyable, easy read and the profiles and pictures bring back many wonderful memories of the friends and acquaintances that I have the good fortune to know. In fact, some of you are old friends that I knew 20 years ago when we were all in the 'closet' and didn't know about each other!

I'm sitting here trying to stretch out a new pair of low heel pumps for the next time 'out'. I should be standing but it's a long reach to the keyboard. Found out that one-size fits all pantyhose doesn't. I put them on 'cause socks are too thick for the shoes and split from stem to stern. Guess it was a guy who discovered crotchless hosiery? Thinking about it makes me think I should put on the old well broken in bra. The shoes and bra lead me into the next part of the story.

Two weeks ago, I returned from a trip to Las Vegas (broke) on a huge convention. It was a show for broadcast engineers and technicians taking in 500,000 sq. feet alone. It was the first time in 13 years of attending this show that I was able to go and have a room all to myself. You guessed it, the party dress was in the suitcase along with the high heels and makeup, etc. My mind was reeling with what ifs: One of my peers could see me, bag inspection at customs, trouble with security at the hotel, did I forget something expensive? Anyway it came off without a hitch except that the damn zipper broke on my dress the second

night while getting dressed. I was only 'made' once as far as I could tell. A lady and her friend were walking past me in the casino and did a real double take at my passing. I didn't let on that I noticed (which is a really important thing to remember girls) and headed on to the poker machines. It was funny in that I was more nervous returning to my room from the casino and up the elevator, than coming down. If one of you psychology majors can explain that one let me know. I had a great time though, I was solo and wished that I could have spent more time as my feminine self with another lady.

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Vegas,

The one item of apparel that had been missing from my wardrobe was a pair of good breast forms. Each time I've visited the 'strip' I've looked for a store similar to Barbies with no avail. So I took the bull by the horns and walked to a relatively close bra and mastectomy shop. The shop is called Total Woman. The lady was very warm and friendly and helped me select a nice pair of breasts which were of comparable price to those in Canada. Actually Barbie beat the price with the foreign exchange included as I found out with the latest newsletter.

The lady at the shop)...said that there is no store in all of Las Vegas for crossdressers. She has talked to many of us and is completely baffled as to why the locals cannot open up a venue. She thinks it would be a wonderful business opportunity given the tourism and entertainment base that the city has. Interested Barbie? So shopping in the city of lights is a little more awkward than you would imagine. But I had no trouble so be adventuresome.

Walking back to the strip I passed a huge wig store that looked very interesting, but alas I didn't have the time to check it out

My feet hurt so badly that Dr. Scholls became a little richer on the trip. It was fun and no problems were encountered other than the broken zipper. I was very careful to partially cover up my female garb in the suitcase just in case customs or security got curious or if the bag broke. I guess if there is a moral to the story, don't be afraid if you want to have fun. All the best and I long for the day I can return to Illusions for a visit. Hopefully it won't be too far away. Perhaps for the big wedding!

All My Love, Charlene #154

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Dear Barbie,

I have never confided in anyone regarding my penchant for wearing women's clothing, but hope you will understand my need to share this secret with an understanding soul.

I am 48, employed, and travel extensively, married with family, financially and mentally secure. Started dressing at age 16 in my sister's garter belt and stockings. They certainly didn't fit well but felt wonderful. I quickly outgrew her wardrobe (physically) and abandoned all hope of discovering my femme side for many years.

After graduating university, I started a family and dedicated my life to it and my job, all the while suppressing the need to know the other side of me.

Over the years I have purchased lingerie for my wife, in the hope that this would satisfy my desire to be close to feminine attire. Thus only served to reinforce a deeper need to purchase and shop for these items. When my wife suggested that I seemed to be more interested in her intimate apparel than our relationship, I immediately backed-off buying for her and drummed up enough nerve to start shopping for myself.

I love my wife and family dearly and would never do anything to hurt them, but if she were to discover this side of my life, she would be devastated.

I dress from the waist-down only due to lack of feminine attributes. It may look silly, but it works for me and that matters. Girdles, stockings and heels are my preference, if you can help, please write

Your friend, B

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**SINGAPORE / Admitting
defeat, officials changed
stand on transvestites**

Dressing for success

BY JOHN STACKHOUSE
The Globe and Mail
Singapore

As the rickety ceiling fan sliced through the sultry night air, Vivian crossed his stockinged legs, fixed his black mini-skirt and played nervously with his long, lustrous black hair.

It had been a good night for the 26-year-old transvestite, who stashed the evening's take of 100 Singapore dollars (\$110) into his purse and looked out the narrow door to a menagerie of hawkers selling sex aids and old men worshipping caged pythons.

"As long as we stay here and don't go too far, as long as we don't let too many people see us, the police don't mind," said Vivian, formerly known as Richard. "How can they stop us? We were born to be this way."

You may now kiss the bride, er, groom

LONDON (Reuter) — A couple who fell in love after having sex-change operations have appealed to the Queen to support their campaign to marry under their new identities, a British newspaper said today.

Although they are legally allowed to marry, Janeen Newham and David Willis would have to assume their old genders for the wedding ceremony, as British law does not recognize sex-change surgery.

Newham, 47, would be addressed as the groom, not the bride, because she was born a man. Willis would be asked whether he wanted to take his girlfriend as his lawfully wedded husband.

The couple, who met five years ago just before Newham's operation to become a woman, told the Mirror they appealed in desperation to the Queen

In one of the world's most controlled societies, where even Cosmopolitan magazine is banned because it is too provocative, Singapore's transvestite community has defied so many government efforts to remove it that authorities now grudgingly accept its existence.

"The government gives us a licence now," Vivian continued, speaking in his brothel in the back alleys of Singapore's Little India. "It's better than us running up and down the street."

When the government several years ago tried to drive the transvestites from the island, the trade simply went underground, where it could continue to cater to the sanitized city-state's population of construction workers and stevedores, most of whom come from the minority Indian community.

Admitting they could not take the sin out of Singapore, the republic's authoritarian leaders finally decided to keep the industry, like almost every other aspect of island life, under its thumb. It now permits brothel owners to operate in selected areas such as Little India.

Although Vivian spends the equivalent of \$40 a month on compulsory health checkups and another \$60 for hormone injections, he still takes home \$1,600 in a good month. "It's more than many of my classmates at college are making," the communications major said.

The transvestites are more than a small contributor to Singapore's economic miracle; they are one of the few remaining vestiges of the island's dissolute past.

to take up their case.

"We want to be married in a dignified manner, as is considered for non-transsexuals," said the letter to the Queen, written by Janeen, who as John Newham worked as a trawler captain.

"We seek only that we address each other in sincerity. I to take David as my husband and he to take me as his wife."

The newspaper did not say whether Buckingham Palace had responded.

"We've been through all the nastiness, the nuisance calls, the vandalism, the stares," said Willis, who has an eight-year-old daughter from his life as a woman.

"What we want is to be happy together and we are prepared to come out into the open."

Only a few blocks from the more popular shopping malls of hermetically sealed Singapore, where there is no tolerance for anything that smacks of Western decadence (Burger King excluded), a thriving anti-culture persists in decaying *fin de siècle* townhouses.

Off Little India's Serangoon Road, on roads called Hindoo and Baboo Lanes, rickshaws, not light rapid transit, remain the preferred mode of transport. In a country obsessed with "family values," rows of hawkers sell misshapen condoms and "Goat's Eye Hair" ticklers. And as if to defy Singapore's elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew, carousers unzip their pants and urinate in the open sewers, which anywhere else in the city-state might set off electronic urine sensors and trigger hidden police cameras.

Vivian, an only child, still devotes most of his income to supporting his parents, although because of the hormones he can no longer visit them. And he keeps the rest of his money in a government savings account, which he hopes to use one day to open a fashion store — in an air-conditioned shopping mall.



Startling new research suggests that sexual preference is learned—not genetically set in stone—and can change throughout life. On the next pages, an excerpt from *Dual Attraction*, the controversial new book by Martin Weinberg, Colin Williams and Douglas Pryor.

But first, a few words from Virginia Johnson Masters:

We as a society seem to have a need to stereotype people and their behavior. This is as true of sexual behavior as anything else. When we put people in carefully defined boxes, we feel we create a kind of order, that the acceptable and the unacceptable are codified.

In the case of sexuality, we think that we are either heterosexual or homosexual, straight or gay. We may resist new scientific findings for fear that they will disturb our comfortable preconceptions. The only hitch: a sort of rigor mortis of opinion sets in, as we cling to deeply entrenched myths and misconceptions.

In their groundbreaking book Dual Attraction: Understanding Bisexuality (Oxford University Press), Martin Weinberg, Colin Williams and Douglas Pryor—three distinguished sociol-

ogists—offer us a new way to think about sexuality, a way to open the boxes in our minds. In what may be their most controversial assertion, the authors maintain that sexual identity is not set in stone; that because patterns of sexual behavior evolve according to personal circumstances, our sexual identity may not remain fixed throughout our lives. The focus of our desire may change, and these variations can be considered simply part of the complex continuum of human sexual response.

What Weinberg, Williams and Pryor are offering us is not simply the results of their investigations into bisexuality but the chance to profoundly challenge and rethink our most closely held ideas about sexual identity. We can't turn down that chance.

Sex-swap gal vows from the campaign trail:

I'm gonna be mayor!

By SUSAN JIMISON

Staff writer

Transsexual Terri Pohrman is running for mayor — and it looks like her oddball campaign is going to succeed.

The six-foot blonde she-male is clawing her way to the top job in city government by wooing elderly veterans in Yountville, Calif., where the oldsters form half the voting population.

She has outraged the opposition by flouncing through the local veterans' home dressed in sexy costumes and low-cut sequined gowns.

She buys the old guys drinks and listens to their war stories and she's captured the hearts — and the votes — of the facility's 1,100 residents.

"The conduct she is putting on for someone running for mayor of a town is unbelievable," said Richard Kessler, 65, a disapproving citizen of Yountville, pop. 3,200.

"She's trying to work the vets' home for votes. To me, she is nothing but a burlesque queen. A lot of these old, senile vets are taken in by her."

Towering Terri — who measures 44-30-40 — once made her living as a female impersonator in Las Vegas. But she insists she's dead serious about getting the top job in Yountville and that when she does she's going to improve the lot of veterans.

"Right now people in this town shun the vets," said Terri, who quit impersonating women and became the real



TERRI, as a boy, in a photo taken in junior high school.

thing in 1972. "I want to unite the town.

"I want to get the vets involved in town activities, get them to council meetings and things like that.

"I'm serious about this. I'm going to be mayor and these people are scared. They think I'll open a bunch of massage parlors and adult bookstores, but that's not so."

In fact, Terri promises a pretty unexciting list of town improvements if she's elected on April 10. She wants to get better transportation for the little Napa Valley town, encourage the establishment of affordable, safe entertainment spots, and plan the town's development.

Her campaign slogan is "The Change Will Do You Good." And she believes that

**And chances are
— she will!**

whatever her method of vote-getting, if she pleases the voters she deserves to win.

"I've been friends with the vets since I came here," said the strapping sex-swap candidate, a Yountville resident for two years. "I sit and listen to them; I'm interested in them.

"I entertain them at the home. I go there in costume on Christmas and Valentine's Day. I make them smile. If I get votes by caring, that's O.K. Someone ought to care about these people — they served for our country; they served for us."



WINNING smile has made Terri a favorite among the 1,100 vets — and voters — in the local veterans' home.



....Guess Who's New
At the
Club?.....

#289 MICHELLE....Up from the "Windy" City, ready to party with the "Girls"! We look forward to seeing Bea with Michelle.

#290 GLORIA.....A new gal from Saskatchewan.

#291 LOREA.....Old member coming back to the club.

#292 LESLIE....Recent convert in Edmonton. Wants to help club up in the "North".

#293 COLLESSE.....A new member from rural Alberta.

#294 COREEN....Crossdressing most of life. Embarking on the adventure of "Coming Out"

#295 JACQUI.....Been dressing since age 12. Thirty some years ago.

#296 RACQUEL..Musician who has decided to march with us to a different drummer.

#297 VICTORIA...New member who believes there are some TS tendencies in his make up.

#298 DANA.....Back with us again and hangs her hat in Central Alberta.

#299 TERRY....Welcome.

#300 TAMMIE..Hoping to make new friends at the "Club".

#301 YVONNE.....Looking to take the journey "Out of the Closet".

quoted

**what's up
with that?**

MEN IN SKIRTS Serious gender bending: Anna Sui had them sashaying down the runways, Nirvana wears skirts on stage. Apparently, clothes do *not* make the man.

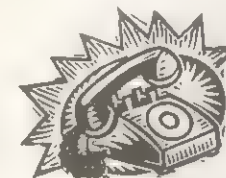
"Around the house I wore slips and pumps and then tested the waters with garter belts and stockings. I got braver every day."

—Johnny Depp, preparing for a role as a cross-dresser

.....and ED WOOD the U.S. film director, who died in 1978, is known as the auteur of some of the worst films ever made. Plan 9 From Outer Space, a movie about his bizarre life—a transvestite U.S. Marine who stormed ashore on a Pacific island wearing a bra and panties—will be released this fall by Disney Studios

NOT JUST LIP SERVICE

A year ago, when Frank Toskan, the genius behind M.A.C., introduced Viva Glam lipstick (which comes with a condom), he pledged to donate every cent of sales to AIDS charities. M.A.C. staffers waived their commissions on this item; retailers gave up 100 percent of their proceeds. We recently asked Toskan how much money he's raised. The good news: in just twelve months more than one million dollars has been raised. Bravo! To order, 800-387-6707 (\$12 each).



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knowledge organizes what you do. And it allows for social support from others who identify the same way. Sexual identity provides the social cement that sets sexual preference in place.

But because the bisexual identity is not well defined, many of the people we studied spent many years coming to grips with their sexuality and came to define themselves as bisexual only at a relatively late age. Even after they had adopted the identity, the bisexuals were often faced with continued uncertainty, an absence of closure about who they were. This left open the possibility of further change.

Though a person may recognize attraction to both sexes, and may have adopted a set sexual identity, something else is needed in order to fully explain sexual preference: the social structures in which these dual desires can be realized. These structures—for example, open relationships—not only show us how bisexuality actually works in

Jealousy seemed most prevalent when a person's secondary relationship was of the same sex as the primary partner. What this meant was that additional partners were more likely to be of the same sex than of the opposite sex.

The most obvious constraints on the expression of bisexuality come from the larger culture, which sees a dual preference as a form of deviance. Thus bisexuals reported coming out to others much as homosexuals did, testing the waters first with those they trusted and avoiding those whose reaction they suspected would be negative. Another constraint on bisexuality comes from those homosexuals who fear that a bisexual partner would leave them for the opposite sex.

Many of the people in our study changed in their sexual feelings and behaviors and/or romantic feelings over periods as short as three years. How to account for such changes? This is a crucial

categories—all these can account for shifts in an individual's sexual identity. We found the most pressing factor in the broader social environment affecting sexual preference to be the emergence of AIDS.

The epidemic has had a powerful impact on sexual preference. By 1988, when we reinterviewed our respondents, many had changed the direction of their sexual behavior in an attempt to protect themselves from the virus. Men moved in the heterosexual direction and women in the homosexual direction. The epidemic had also brought a change in relationships—monogamy had become a more popular arrangement. Casual and anonymous sex had decreased, as did sex with multiple partners. Significantly, though some people questioned their bisexual identity, few rejected it outright.

It is our belief that bisexuals are at the point where homosexuals were in the early 1960s: they are known to exist, al-

Both men and women saw sex with men as more physical, with women as more intimate

everyday life but also illustrate the wide range of bisexualities that exists.

When we began our study, multiple relationships and nonmonogamy were widely accepted in the bisexual community. Sexual freedom was the dominant ideology, but nevertheless a large number of those we studied were married. Indeed, we found marriage and bisexuality not incompatible, and many unmarried bisexuals said that they hoped to wed in the future for reasons familiar to us all: love, sex, children. For many in our study, sexual opportunities were organized around an "open" marriage or marital-like relationship. The spouse or partner was considered primary; the other relationship(s), secondary. The primary relationship was most likely to be heterosexual and the secondary relationship homosexual. Most bisexual arrangements were concurrent and, therefore, based on nonmonogamy, but the nonmonogamy was restricted by ground rules meant to ward off jealousy.

question because it goes a long way toward explaining the very nature of sexual preference itself. First there are the most immediate causes of change: entering or leaving a relationship, deepening an existing one, increasing or decreasing social interaction with heterosexuals or homosexuals, receiving social support from bisexuals.

Change is also caused by those social institutions that facilitate or limit sexuality. Among these are organizations like the Bisexual Center that provide an ideology, and especially a sexual identity, that supports change. At the other end of the spectrum might be a church or other religious group that frowns on a homosexual identity, much less a bisexual identity.

Finally, there are sociocultural reasons for change, that have been relatively overlooked in theories of sexual preference. Large-scale historical transformations in the cultural meanings of sex and gender, the development of new moralities, the emergence and disappearance of social

though this awareness unfortunately came about in connection with the AIDS epidemic, so that bisexuals are often seen as disease carriers. Since their sexuality is seen more as a matter of choice than of biology, they also seem to receive less sympathy than do homosexuals.

We found that sexual preference is much less fixed and much more complicated—and therefore fascinating—than most current thinking holds. A close examination of bisexuality offers the promise of a better understanding of sexuality in general, and might pave the way for the calmer and more positive approach to sex that must surely follow the AIDS crisis.

Virginia Johnson Masters is the co-founder with Dr. William H. Masters of the **Masters & Johnson Institute**. **Martin S. Weinberg** and **Colin J. Williams** are professors of sociology at Indiana University; **Douglas W. Pryor** is a visiting lecturer in sociology at Wake Forest University.

The Woman In The Man

Some psychologists claim a cure for gender confusion, others deny such a thing. A TS is born a TS.

By Lisa

He hated being a boy and told his therapist, "If you wear girls' clothes, you could really become a girl." The boy was a shy, easily upset nursery school pupil who insisted on dressing as a girl. At age 3, he spent hours preening in front of a mirror, dressed in his mother's clothes and jewelry. He chose to play with the girls and favourite stories were Snow White, Rapunzel and Alice in Wonderland. The e psychiatrist's diagnosis was gender-identity disorder-distress at one's own gender, coupled with the fervent desire to become a member of the opposite sex.

The boy was treated for the next four years. Now 10, he "likes being a boy and doesn't really remember crossdressing," says Dr. Susan Coates, director of the Childhood Gender Identity Center at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York. Coates and the other child psychologists say the causes for gender-identity disorder are from family life and a child's search for identity. For treatment, Dr. Kenneth Zucker of the Clark Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto recommends three choices: Help the

child feel more secure about his or her gender, deal with the child's emotional difficulties or help with problems in the family.

With gender confused boys, several patterns have been noted: One is having a mother who is hostile towards men, and a father who is physically or emotionally distressed. The child senses that being a man is of little worth.

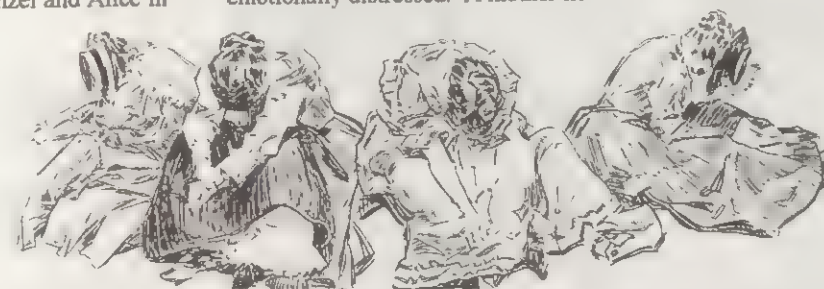
Then there is the mother who emotionally distressed. A mother not

gender. When we go back to evaluate them three years or so after therapy, they don't have cross-gender fantasies any more, or often don't remember them. But if you don't treat it until 9 or 10, it's much harder to turn around, and beyond age 12 or so, there's a good chance they're on course to become transsexuals."

But no all psychologists agree with Coates or Zucker. Dr. Martin Seligman, the author of *What You can Change and What*

You Can't says that among the many unique human traits, sexual identity cannot be changed.

Seligman claims therapy can cure specific phobia and panic attacks, change depression, and



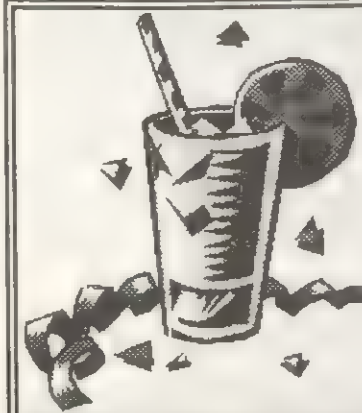
able to raise her son emotionally can make the boy try to make up for it by identifying with a nurturing female, the girl he can become.

Transvestitism should not be confused with gender-identity disorder say the psychologists. Transvestitism is not as distressing, in that it will not interfere with the child's everyday functioning. Transvestitism usually develops around the age of 8 or 9, gender-identity disorder begins as early as 2 or 3.

Dr. Coates claims: "With therapy, younger kids usually come to accept their

alcoholism but when a man believes he is a woman, he cannot be persuaded otherwise. It's a strong-biological factor, since sexual identity is determined in utero, scientists now estimate, by the second month of gestation. Convinced that they are the opposite sex, the belief pervades and affects the man's entire life. "So instead of therapy to change the person's mind," Seligman says, "what we do is change the person's body to conform to his psychological identity."

Sources: NY Times, Vogue



Outside in the sun

Illusions 1st annual Stampede BBQ
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tall tales at the bunkhouse.
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#290 Gloria
#291 Lorea

#292 Leslie
Recent convert to Cross Dressing. Want to meet same for outings. Goal is to pass on the street, needs to learn the Art of Make-up.

#293 Collesse
#294 Coreen
#295 Jacqui
#296 Racquel
#297 Victoria Catherine
#298 Dana
#299 Terry
#300 Tammie

#301 Yvonne
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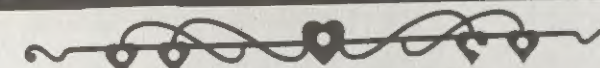
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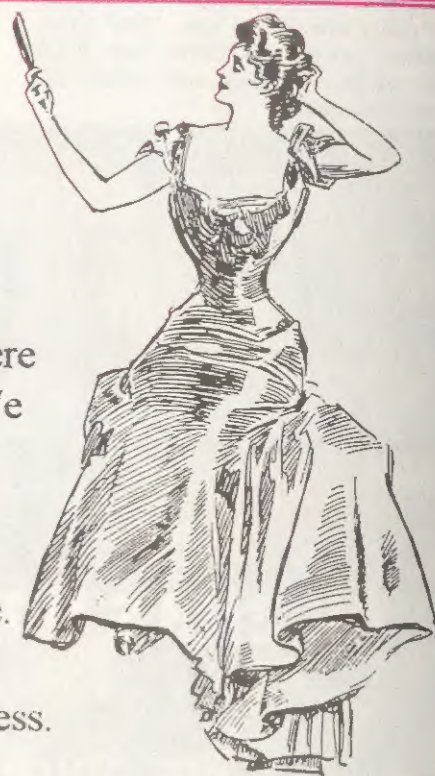
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